

Message Text

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DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01

OIC-02 AF-08 EUR-12 FEA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /126 W

----- 075771

O 232317Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4172

INFO USERDA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USERDA GERMANTOWN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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STATE PASS IO/SCT

FROM USDEL IAEA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, IAEA, XF

SUBJ: IAEA 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: PLO INVITED TO ATTEND GENERAL
CONFERENCE SESSIONS AS OBSERVER

REF: STATE 229727 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GENERAL CONFERENCE PLENARY MEETING 9/23 APPROVED BY
ROLL CALL VOTE RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY TWELVE MEMBER STATES
INVITING PLO TO PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVER IN THIS AND FUTURE
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SESSIONS OF GENERAL CONFERENCE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS

(REFTEL), USDEL INTERVENED IN OPPOSITION, AS IT HAD ALSO DONE PREVIOUSLY IN GENERAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF QUESTION OF INCLUSION THIS PROPOSAL AS AN ITEM ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA. OF MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING, TALLY WAS 46 IN FAVOR, 4 AGAINST AND 21 ABSTAINING. END SUMMARY.

1. GC CONSIDERATION THIS AGENDA ITEM FOLLOWED REPORT TO PLENARY BY PRESIDENT THAT GENERAL COMMITTEE, WHICH HAD MET PREVIOUS EVENING, HAD RECOMMENDED INCLUSION OF ALL AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED IN PROVISIONAL AGENDA (GC(XX)/562), NOTING US RESERVATIONS IN COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURAL GROUNDS. AT THAT GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING, AT WHICH US WAS SOLE RPT SOLE MEMBER OUT OF 16 TO OPPOSE ITEM, USREP (TAPE), ARGUED (1) THAT PLO DID NOT MEET CRITERIA ESTABLISHED IN RULES OF PROCEDURE (NO. 30-32) FOR REPRESENTATION AT GC OF UN ORGANIZATIONS, NGOS AND IGOS; (2) THAT IN PREVIOUS CASES SINCE 1960 WHERE EXCEPTIONS TO THESE CRITERIA HAD BEEN MADE, GC HAD GIVEN BOARD OF GOVERNORS SPECIFIC AUTHORITY TO DECIDE WHICH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE INVITED AS HAVING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAKE TO AFFAIRS OF AGENCY, AND THAT THE GC THEREFORE SHOULD HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE BOARD'S ADVICE BEFORE DEPARTING FROM PRECEDENT, (3) ACTION BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS TO PLO WAS NOT AUTHORITATIVE PRECEDENT IN VIEW OF ARTICLE V OF RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN UN AND AGENCY.

2. IRAQUI GOVERNOR (AL-SHAWI) LED OFF SERIES OF REMARKS, WHICH COULD BE DESCRIBED MOST CHARITABLY AS IRRELEVANT, BY NINE REPS IN SUPPORT OF INCLUSION OF AGENDA ITEM, INCLUDING NIGERIA, KUWAIT, INDIA, USSR, GDR, MEXICO, ROMANIA AND (AFTER COMMITTEE DECISION TAKEN) THAILAND. IRAQI CITED AS PRECEDENT ACTIONS BY OTHER IOS, ASSERTED LACK OF ANY RULE PRECLUDING INCLUSION OF PLO AMONG OBSERVERS AND CLAIMED THAT RULE 2 OF GC RULES OF PROCEDURE PROVIDED JUSTIFICATION FOR SAME (REBUTTED BY USREP). CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED FINDING IN SUPPORT OF INCLUSION OF ALL ITEMS ON PROVISIONAL AGENDA, NOTING US RESERVATIONS FOR THE RECORD.

3. DEBATE ON PLO AGENDA ITEM WAS TAKEN UP BY PLENARY MORNING OF 9/23, FOLLOWING FORMAL ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND ADMISSION OF NICARAGUA AS MEMBER. ITEM WAS INTRODUCED BY IRAQI DELEGATE WHO, ON BEHALF OF ALL 12 CO-SPONSORS OF RESOLUTION INVITING PLO AS CONFIDENTIAL

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OBSERVER (GC(XX)/572), RESTATED HIS ARGUMENTS OF PREVIOUS EVENING, ADDING THAT AS "WIDELY RECOGNIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS," PLO WAS INTERESTED IN PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AND COULD CONTRIBUTE TO WORK OF AGENCY. PROPOSAL WAS THEREFORE NOT MERELY OF "POLITICAL" NATURE. SUPPORTING INTERVENTIONS FOLLOWED BY REPS OF BANGLADESH, USSR, PAKISTAN, ROMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA, TURKEY AND CUBA WHO FOLLOWED SIMILAR LINE, STRESSING NECESSITY OF AGENCY TO ACT IN CONFORMITY WITH UNGA AND OTHER

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. NOVEL DEPARTURE WAS TAKEN BY REPS OF CUBA AND YUGOSLAVIA WHO SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS HIGH TIME "POLITICAL REALITIES" WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE AGENCY.

4. STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION WERE DELIVERED BY REPS OF US (TAPE) AND ISRAEL (EILAM). AMB TAPE, ADDRESSING MERITS OF PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION, REITERATED ARGUMENTS MADE IN GENERAL COMMITTEE, ADDING THAT PLO WAS BY OWN ADMISSION A POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, ASSOCIATION WITH WHICH COULD NOT BENEFIT AGENCY; THAT PROPOSAL FOR OBSERVER STATUS FOR PLO WAS, THEREFORE, OBVIOUSLY POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND WITHOUT REAL MERIT, AND THAT AGENCY PERMITTING ITSELF TO BE USED IN SUCH A WAY COULD JEOPARDIZE ITS REPUTATION AND CREDIBILITY AS EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT IN NON PROLIFERATION (FULL TEXT TRANSMITTAL SEPTEL). IN CLOSING, AMB. TAPE REQUESTED VOTE ON PROPOSAL.

5. WITH NO RPT NO ADVANCE SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTATION WITH USDEL, ISRAELI DELEGATE (EILAM) TOOK FLOOR TO URGE MEMBERS NOT TO SURRENDER TO POLITICAL PRESSURE BUT TO ADHERE TO AGENCY'S OWN STATUTE AND PROCEDURES, NOTING THAT ADMISSION OF "TERRORIST" GROUPS WOULD CALL INTO QUESTION AGENCY'S CREDIBILITY. ONLY OTHER SPEAKER WAS AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE (GEORGE) WHO IN ADVANCE EXPLANATION OF VOTE, STATED THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD ABSTAIN BECAUSE GOA DID NOT THINK OBSERVER STATUS FOR PLO WAS CONSISTENT WITH RULES OF PROCEDURE.

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INRE-00 /126 W

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6. BREAKDOWN OF VOTE WHICH, AT REQUEST OF IRAQI DELEGATE, WAS BY ROLL-CALL, WAS AS FOLLOWS: IN FAVOR, 46 (ALGERIA, BANGLADESH, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BYELORUSSIA, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ECUADOR, EGYPT, FINLAND, GDR, GHANA, GREECE, HUNGARY, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAQ, JAPAN, KUWAIT, LIBYA, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, NIGER, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, QATAR, RUMANIA, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SPAIN, SUDAN, SWEDEN, SYRIA, THAILAND, TURKEY, UKRAINE, USSR, UAE, TANZANIA, VENEZUELA, YUGOSLAVIA, ZAIRE, ZAMBIA); OPPOSED, 4 (U.S., ISRAEL, SOUTH AFRICA, COSTA RICA); ABSTAINING, 21 (ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BOLIVIA, CANADA, CHILE, DENMARK, FRANCE, FRG, IRAN, IRELAND, ITALY, ROK, LIECHTENSTEIN, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PANAMA, PORTUGAL, SWITZERLAND, U.K.).

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7. FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF VOTE TALLY AND FORMAL INVITATION TO PLO BY PRESIDENT TO ATTEND SESSION AS OBSERVER, ISRAELI DELEGATE TOOK FLOOR AND IN ILL-ADVISED STATEMENT, WARNED MEMBERSHIP THAT MAJORITY OF VOTERS HAD BETRAYED HOPES OF WORLD COMMUNITY BY ADMITTING TERRORISTS INTO ITS MEETINGS. CONSTRUCTIVE WORK OF YEARS BY AGENCY HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED, INCLUDING SAFEGUARDS CREDIBILITY, AND PLO HAD BEEN PUT INTO POSITION OF EXERCISING "NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL."

8. COMMENT: IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SPONSORS OF PLO OBSERVER STATUS WERE RELATIVELY RESTRAINED BOTH IN THEIR WRITTEN RESOLUTION AND IN THEIR INTERVENTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PLO. NEITHER THE RESOLUTION NOR ORAL STATEMENTS CONTAINED ANY REFERENCE EITHER EXPLICIT OR BY INFERENCE, TO ISRAEL NOR WAS RECOURSE MADE TO INFLAMMATORY OR UNDULY OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE. EVEN THE ILL-CONSIDERED AND, IN OUR VIEW, HIGHLY RISKY INTERVENTIONS BY THE ISRAELI FAILED TO PROVOKE A HOSTILE RESPONSE. MOREOVER, ATMOSPHERE IN PLENARY WAS GENERALLY UNEMOTIONAL. THERE WAS NOT RPT NO APPLAUSE FOLLOWING IRAQI PRESENTATION, NOR WAS THERE A DEMONSTRATION OF ANY SORT, BEYOND RESTRAINED APPLAUSE, FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION. STATEMENTS BY US AND ISRAELI REPS WERE POLITELY RECEIVED, UNATTENDED BY ANY WALKOUTS OR OTHER ATTEMPTS DISRUPT ORDERLY PROCEDURE. IN SUM, WHILE WE LOST THIS ONE, ATMOSPHERICS HAVE BEEN WORSE, CONSIDERING WHAT HAPPENED LAST

YEAR IN NEW YORK. END COMMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976RIODE03598
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760360-0277
From: RIO DE JANEIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760928/aaaaaxkm.tel
Line Count: 225
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 229727
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IAEA 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE: PLO INVITED TO ATTEND GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS AS OBSERVER
TAGS: AORG, OCON, XF, IAEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006